

May 19, 1954

Dr. S. Spiegelman
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Urbana

Dear Sol:

I hasten to reply to your note of the 18th, but not to jump with you into precipitous action without knowing all the facts. I don't know Markert personally, and have learned only what little I read in the newspapers— can you tell me more?

Your suggestion to threaten refusal of the Summer Biological Symposium does not seem to me a wise course, on pragmatic grounds, as well as because I do not have the facts to make a personal decision. If the Michigan Faculty should require our support, I suggest a more constructive course would be to contribute the honoraria, should we find need and justification for it.

In general, the use of the privilege against self-incrimination (contra the 1st Amendment rights of free speech) seems to me inconsistent with the responsibilities of academic freedom, but I know too little of the situation to make a final judgment.

I was a little disturbed at the petition that Nanney had sent, which was rather trickily worded. I do not see how one can judge personal integrity from scientific publications, but more to the point was the application of lysenkism as a touchstone of political loyalty. Is Lindegren a Communist? We shall all be sorry when we have to discuss scientific claims from a political angle.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

cc Hinshelwood

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CC; Preer, Ryan